

# 2018

## PBARC CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER

Christmas is the greatest time of the year for me and my family. Thinking back I can still remember the gifts that meant the most to me. Like the time my dad gave me my first gun, a ruger 10/22 or the tool box I wanted that Terri give me in our early years together, and yes I still have them both. But more than that is the birth of our lord and savior. We don't ever need to forget the reason for the season.

*Merry Christmas and a Happy Ney Year!  
The Driskill Family*



*The Birth of Christ.*

Isaiah 9:6

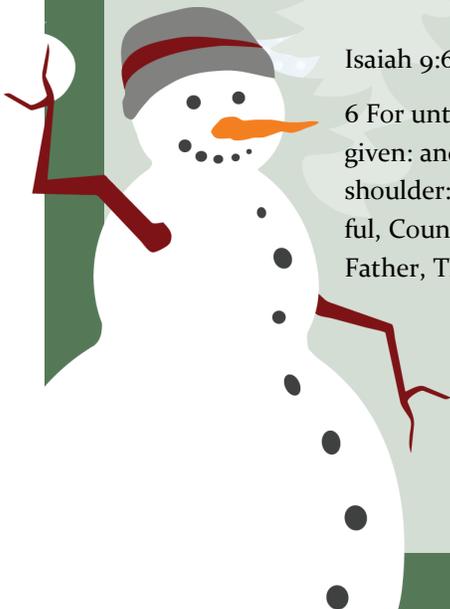
6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

### Ham FYI

The late Jean Shepherd is best known as narrator and author of "A Christmas Story." He was also a lifelong amateur-radio operator and CW fan. Here's an intro he ad libbed circa 1980 for a code practice tape produced by the American Radio Relay League.

Christmas in Bethlehem  
Dec 15-24

Dec 15-Dec 24, 1400Z-2300Z,  
KC5OUR, Belen, NM. Valencia  
County Amateur Radio Associ-  
ation. 7.283 14.283 21.383. QSL.  
Valencia County ARA, P.O. Box  
268, Peralta, NM 87042. Cele-  
brating the Christmas season  
from Belen (Bethlehem) New  
Mexico. For QSL card please  
SASE to KC5OUR.  
kc5our@arrl.net



# Hams Night Before Christmas

"Twas the night before Christmas,  
And all through two-meters,  
Not a signal was keying up  
Any repeaters.

The antennas reached up  
From the tower, quite high,  
To catch the weak signals  
That bounced from the sky.

The children, Technicians,  
Took their HT's to bed,  
And dreamed of the day  
They'd be Extras, instead.

Mom put on her headphones,  
I plugged in the key,  
And we tuned 40 meters  
For that rare ZK3.

When the meter was pegged  
By a signal with power.  
It smoked a small diode,  
And, I swear, shook the tower.

Mom yanked off her phones,  
And with all she could muster  
Logged a spot of the signal  
On the DX PacketCluster,

While I ran to the window  
And peered up at the sky,  
To see what could generate  
RF that high.

It was way in the distance,  
But the moon made it gleam -  
A flying sleigh,  
With an eight element beam,

And a little old driver  
Who looked slightly mean,  
So I thought for a moment  
That it might be Wayne Green.

But no, it was Santa,  
The Santa of Hams,  
On a mission this Christmas  
To clean up the bands.

He circled the tower,  
Then stopped in his track,  
And he slid down the coax  
Right into the shack.

While Mom and I hid  
Behind stacks of CQ,  
This Santa of hamming  
Knew just what to do.

He cleared off the shack desk  
Of paper and parts,  
And filled out all my late  
QSLs, for a start.

He ran copper braid,  
Took a steel rod and pounded  
It into the earth  
Till the station was grounded.

He tightened loose fittings,  
Resoldered connections,  
Cranked down modulation,  
Installed lightning protection.

He neutralized tubes  
In my linear amp...  
(Never worked right before -  
Now it works like a champ).

A new low-pass filter  
Cleaned up the TV.  
He corrected the settings  
In my TNC.

He repaired the computer  
That wouldn't compute,  
And he backed up the hard drive  
And got it to boot.

Then, he reached really deep  
In the bag that he brought,  
And he pulled out a big box.  
"A new rig?" I thought!

"A new Kenwood? An Icom?  
A Yaesu, for me?  
An Elecraft, TEN-TEC  
Or Flex, could it be!"  
(If he thought I'd been bad  
It might be QRP!)

Yes! The Ultimate station!  
How could I deserve this?  
Could it be all those weekends  
I worked Public Service?

He hooked it all up

He hooked it all up  
And in record time, quickly  
Worked 100 countries,  
All down on 160.

I should have been happy.  
It was my call he sent.  
But the cards and the postage  
Will cost a month's rent!

He made final adjustments,  
And left a card by the key:  
"To Gary, from Santa Claus.  
Seventy-Three."

Then he grabbed his HT,  
Looked me straight in the eye,  
Punched a code on the pad,  
And was gone - no good bye.

I ran back to the station,  
And the pile up was big.  
But a card from St. Nick  
Would be worth my new rig.

Oh, too late, for his final  
Came over the air.  
It was copied all over.  
It was heard everywhere.

The Ham's Santa exclaimed  
What an old ham expects:  
"Merry Christmas to all,  
And to all, good DX."



Written By Gary Pearce KN4AQ

# Christmas Memory

One of my favorite memories of Christmas, as a child, was waking up to find dusty boot prints leading from the fireplace to the Christmas tree. My parent's always made Christmas extra special for my brother, Eric, and I. As far back as I can remember, Daddy would dress up as Santa Claus, sneak out of the house and ring the front door bell. Of course, Mom would have me and Eric come to the door to greet Santa as he came inside. He would scoop us onto his lap and sit down onto the hearth in front of the fire to hear our last requests and to tell us we'd been good that year. After a quick visit, he'd leave out the same way he came. We never seemed to catch on that Daddy wasn't around when Santa came to visit. Of course, we loved giving a recount of every detail once Daddy seemed to reappear.

Now that we're grown and have children of our own, we love to sit and reminisce of those Christmas' past. Mom told us about using the dust from the fireplace on Daddy's boots and walking them to the tree for the boot prints. We figured out that Daddy snuck back inside the house when Mom was tucking us into bed and reading our bedtime story. However, we've still never figured out how Daddy got out of the house in the Santa Claus suit to come for his visit and our parent's won't tell us. So after all these years, there is still a little bit of magic left to Christmas.

From my family to yours, We hope you have a magical and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!

Terri, KG5SRP



## PBARC

### 2018 – A year in review

As this year draws to a close, I find myself reflecting on many things that have happened this year. Many good. Some not.

One of my personal goals for 2018 was to get out and enjoy the outdoors and beauty of this wonderful state and somehow bring amateur radio into the mix. One of my mentors, though he will deny it, is Rick Harris, AI5P. I got to know Rick through the Arkansas DX Association. Rick would always provide articles for the ADXA newsletter. Getting material for a newsletter is the hardest part of putting together a newsletter. But I could count on Rick.

As I read his articles I became more and more curious about how he involved amateur radio in his travels. About two years ago, I noticed that he was spotted on a DX cluster working from a remote spot in New Mexico where he now lives. It reminded me of the ARRL program of a few years ago of activating National Parks. Well I found out there is a page on Facebook called Parks on the Air (POTA).

I read about the POTA and decided that was how I could accomplish my goal of getting out and involving amateur radio. I picked a park that was close (Toltec Mounds) and decided I would make a go of it. It was a cold January Saturday morning. I setup using a buddipole system that I had purchased several years before. After getting the OK from the Park Ranger I set out to make contacts. Well that wasn't gonna happen (only made 7 or 8 Qs) but I wrapped up the day knowing that I would be activating more parks in the future.

I shared my activation experience with the members of PBARC at a face-to-face and it sparked some interest from others wanting to get involved. Well it took off more than I could imagine. We have activated 8 parks in 2018. I've seen parts of the Arkansas that I probably not have even considered if it was not for POTA activations. We started making more contacts when we moved from the buddipole antenna system to using a loaded 20M/40M dipole. The improvement in the number of contacts was unbelievable.

I'm seriously considering operating FT8 in a future activations. More on FT8 in a minute. It has been a great time getting to see Arkansas and making new friends and getting to know some of the new hams beyond the monthly face-to-face meeting. One friend, I found out, can cook the best unseasoned hamburgers ever!

I'm being asked frequently by KG5SRO about when our next activation is going to be. If the weather will cooperate (read as no rain) it will be soon, Shane.

Moving on. I finally decided to setup FT8 and try this new mode that seems to be the new craze on HF. Well I got hooked and have been having a great time with it. I have earned DXCC on 3 bands thanks to FT8. It is super easy to get on and with the help of JTAlert logging your FT8 contacts into your main logging software is simple too. If you have LOTW (or other electronic QSL



means) you can get a contact confirmed in a matter of minutes. Let me plug LOTW. I will admit that it isn't that user friendly but there are plenty of folks in PBARC that can help you get it setup.

In 2018, PBARC lost a long time member. Larry Carroll, N5JWJ. If you got on the PBARC repeaters you would eventually get to talk with Larry. He was always there. He was a wealth of information on many facets of amateur radio. He has been missed.

I want to thank each and every one of you for being who you are and being involved in what I think is the world's best hobby. Getting to know each you has been a blessing for me and appreciate it more than you will know. I hope it continues in 2019.

Set some goals for 2019 however modest they may be and hopefully you will be rewarded like I have been with some memories that won't be soon forgotten.

73 es gud DX de

Glenn



**Merry Christmas To All And To All  
A Good Night**